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July 2019

SPECIAL AGM EDITION

Summary of Chairman's Report for 2018 -2019

PHOTO: JOHN

The EANHS Chairman Dr. Ian Gordon addresses members during the 109th AGM.

BACKGROUND

- Established in 1909 as the Uganda and East Africa Natural History Society (EANHS)
- EANHS is one of Africa's oldest scientific Societies
- Nature Kenya is the BirdLife partner in Kenya
- Aim – Promotion of the study of natural history and conservation of nature in Eastern Africa

2015-2020 Strategic Pillars

1. **Save Species**
2. **Protect Sites and Habitats**
3. **Encourage Ecological Sustainability**
4. **Empower People to Support Nature**

1. SAVE SPECIES

i) Prevent Extinctions

- Completed and launched the Wildlife Anti-Poisoning Response Protocol to protect threatened vultures
- Developed species conservation action plan for six Globally Threatened species found in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and Dakatcha Woodland

PHOTO: JOHN MWACHAP

Launch of the Wildlife Response Protocol at the KWS headquarters in Nairobi

ii) Promote Maintenance of Common Species

- Conducted detailed Important Bird Area (IBA) monitoring in 11 sites
- Trained 78 Site Support Group (SSG) and Community Forest Association (CFA) members in detailed IBA monitoring
- Established 29 transects in four forest stations: Mt. Kenya, Jilore, Gede and Sokoke
- Carried out Jan 2019 and July 2018 waterbird counts at 7 Rift Valley lakes and other sites

2. CONSERVE SITES & HABITATS

- Arabuko-Sokoke Forest designated an Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) site in Kenya
- Purchase procedures in progress to secure 8 acres in Taita Hills to protect Taita Apalis
- One thousand acres identified for land purchase in Dakatcha Woodland—for conservation of Clarke's Weaver
- Ecosystem Services Assessment survey carried out on Mt. Kenya forest. Key highlights include notable forest cover changes: Reduction of closed canopy and bamboo forests and increase in open canopy forest

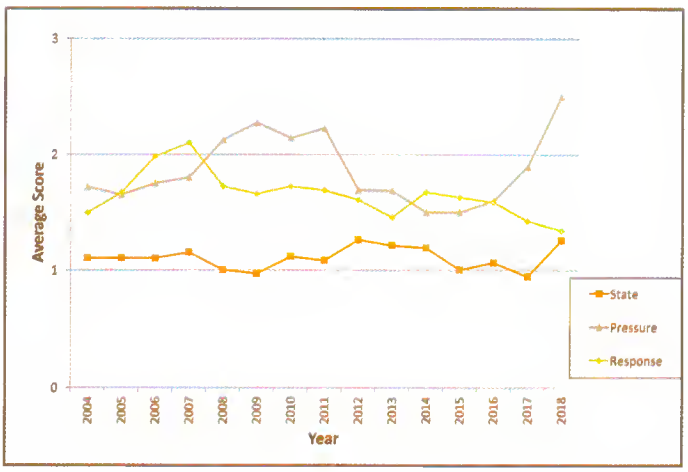
PHOTO: FRANK

Surveying of land for nature reserve in Dakatcha Woodland

ii) Promote Restoration of Degraded Habitat

- Consultatively developed Taita Hills Forest Restoration Strategy to support the Kenya Forest Service objective to increase national forest cover
- With support from Kenya Breweries, supported five CFAs in Mt. Kenya to complete rehabilitation of 100ha of indigenous forest
- Completed a forest disturbance survey in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest to guide forest rehabilitation

IBA MONITORING RESULTS 2004 - 2018



State: Slightly improved
Pressure: Increased
Response: Reduced

SCORES: *0 = Very unfavourable, 1 = Unfavourable, 2 = Near favourable, 3 = Favourable*

3. ENCOURAGE ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY

Aims

- Enhance Nature Kenya participation in decision making
- Mainstream biodiversity into sectors of economy
- Promote sustainable production
- Promote biodiversity safeguards
- Promote, enhance and maintain ecological connectivity
- Promote biodiversity-friendly policies at county, national and global levels
- Promote grass root engagement in policy processes and decision making

i. Promote Sustainable Production by Private Sector

- Engaged the developers of Kipeto Wind Farm who are putting in place measures to ensure net gain for Critically Endangered vultures
- National Wind Power and Biodiversity Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) workshop (with The Biodiversity Consultancy, BirdLife International, The Peregrine Fund) hosted by Ministry of Energy and Petroleum

PHOTO: JOHN MWACHARO

Stokeholders at the initial National Wind Power and Biodiversity SEA consultative meeting – August 2018.

ii. Conservation of Landscapes through Land Use Planning

- A 95,200 ha Community Conserved Area (CCA) is being set up in consultation with stakeholders—implementing the Tana River Delta Land Use Plan
- A management plan for Tana River Delta CCA drafted

iii. Promote Policies that Support Biodiversity Conservation at County, National and Global Levels

- Submitted comments on 12 EIA and SEA reports
- Submitted comments on 11 national policy processes
- Submitted comments on the draft 2019 Budget Policy Statement
- Submitted eight memoranda to the National Assembly and Senate
- Submitted a letter of concern over pollution of Lake Nakuru to NEMA and County Government of Nakuru
- Participated in county policy processes (Kilifi County Forest Policy, Siaya, Tana River/Lamu)
- Submitted comments on Water Management Authority (WRA) draft Lake Naivasha Catchment Area Protection Order 2018
- Conducted policy analysis on the coffee sector in Kenya
- Drafted advocacy strategy on mainstreaming biodiversity into sectors of the economy
- Supported a national meeting to prepare Kenya country position for the 14th Conference of Parties (CoP) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Egypt
- Dr. Paul Matiku attended the 14th CBD CoP as part of government delegation
- The Kenya Government nominated Dr. Paul Matiku to the CBD's informal advisory group on mainstreaming of biodiversity

iv. Promote Site Support Groups (SSGs) Engagement in Policy Processes and Decision Making

- Yala Ecosystem SSG advocated against draining of Lake Kanyaboli
- 11 SSGs are represented in various county level committees related to environment
- 23 SSGs were trained in Policy, Advocacy and Engagement with County Governments
- National forest sector reforms triggered by SSGs and CFAs advocacy in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and Mt. Kenya Forest

PHOTO: EMILY MATECHE

Yala Swamp SSG members creote oworeness during WWD celebrations.

4. EMPOWER PEOPLE TO SUPPORT NATURE

i. Capacity Building

- 23 SSGs (13 women and 30 men) participated in National SSG workshop 2018 - a forum for experience sharing among the SSGs across the country
- 690 SSG members trained on Leadership, Governance and Institutional Management in 2018

ii. Build Grassroots Capacity and Networks for Nature Conservation

- SSGs carried out detailed monitoring at six sites (Kakamega Forest, Taita Hills, Dakatcha Woodland, Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, Yala Swamp, Dunga Swamp) in 2018
- 23 SSGs involved in Common Bird Monitoring in 2018
- Five SSGs (Dakatcha, Taita, Dunga, Arabuko-Sokoke and Yala) received refresher training on IBA Monitoring in 2018
- Four SSG members attended Fundamentals of Ornithology course
- 12 community scouts trained to enhance patrols in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest

PHOTO: FRANCIS KAGEMA

Newly troined Community Forest Scouts in Gede.

iii. SSG Advocacy and Links with Wider Audience

- 23 SSGs advocated for Key Biodiversity Area (KBAs/IBAs) conservation and saving species
- 14 SSGs participated in development of County Integrated Development Plan 2018-2022 in their respective counties
- ASFADA (Arabuko-Sokoke Forest Adjacent Dwellers Association) raised the alarm about illegal activities carried out in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest

For updates visit
www.naturekeny.org

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Screengrab of the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest destruction news feature aired on national television.

- 11 SSGs are members of various committees related to environment in their counties. This elicited reactions from conservationists all over the country, which led the Minister of Environment and Forestry to issue a moratorium on all forest products countrywide

iv. SSGs Recognition and Partnership

- Mt. KEBIO received tree nursery implements and road maintenance support from Community Roads Empowerment (CORE)
- Yala Ecosystem SSG received Ksh 150,000 from the County Government of Siaya for World Wetlands Day and World Migratory Bird Day 2018 celebrations
- Friends of Kinangop Plateau (FoKP) Njabini raised Ksh 3,020,900 (from Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund – US$ 10,800 and Rufford Foundation – £ 14,930)

v. Build Grassroots Capacity and Networks for Nature Conservation

- SSG membership at end of 2018 was 8,592 (4,992 men & 3,600 women)
- 18 SSGs paid for Nature Kenya membership in 2018
- 47,160 people were reached during global events (World Wetland Day, International Day of Forests, World Migratory Bird Day, World Environment Day, International Day for Biological Diversity)
- 35,420 people were reached through chief's barazas as part of environmental awareness

PHOTO: NK ARCHIVES

Clean up exercise by Lake Elementaita SSG along the lake during the World Environment Day 2018 celebrations.

vi. Educate Young People about Nature

- 26,122 school children and 10,648 adults visited 9 eco-resource centres for environmental education
- 300 schools (a total of 49,092 school children) sensitized on environmental issues through school outreach programmes conducted by SSGs

PHOTO: NK ARCHIVES

School children visiting Sabaki Estuary River Mouth.

vii. Livelihood Improvement

- Total household income of SSG members increased by 11.6 % in 2018

PHOTO: NK ARCHIVES

Members of Friends of Kinangop Plateau engageing in wool spinning at Njabini.

viii. Build Constituency and Membership Base for Nature Kenya

Communication

- Annual Kenya Birding magazine and 11 issues of Nature Net produced and sent to all members
- Active on social media with 13,600 followers
- Several appearances in the mainstream media
- Kenya Birding issue 12 (2018) distributed during the British Bird Fair to market Kenya as a birding destination

ix. Corporate Engagement and Sponsorship

- Vivo Energy Kenya funded construction and furnishing of a staff room at Kadunguni Primary School in Dakatcha Woodland IBA and participated in two environmental awareness events, at Kinangop Grasslands and Dakatcha Woodlands
- Kenya Breweries Limited supported planting of 49,000 tree seedlings in Mt. Kenya forest

Partial Lunar Eclipse in July

BY FLEUR NG'WENO

A lunar eclipse, or eclipse of the moon, happens when the Earth's shadow falls on the moon. It's not as dramatic as a solar eclipse, when the sun is hidden by the moon, but it can be seen over a larger area. On July 2 there will be a solar eclipse at new moon, visible in part of the Pacific Ocean, Chile and Argentina. On July 16 the full moon will go through a partial lunar eclipse, visible all over Africa and most of South America, Europe and Asia. (Well, if the sky is cloudy, you may not see it at all!)

At about ten pm on July 16, the outer shadow of the Earth (the penumbra) will fall on the full moon, but it's not very noticeable. At 11 pm, the umbra – the inner, darker shadow of the Earth – will seem to take a "bite" of the full moon. The dark "bite" on the moon will get larger until about half past midnight, when it will start to move away again

Planets July '19

Bright Jupiter is in the east at sunset and moves across the sky through the night, setting in the west before dawn. Saturn, bright but not as bright as Jupiter, follows it in the sky all night. The waxing moon is near Jupiter on July 13, near Saturn on July 15 & 16.

Mars and Mercury, less bright, are sinking towards the western horizon at sunset. The slender crescent moon joins them on July 4. Mercury is higher at first, but sinks more rapidly, passing Mars on July 7. In the pre-dawn sky, Venus disappears in the sunrise's glare by mid-July.

July stars

In the north, the star Arcturus is a sparkling, golden-orange light. Below Arcturus is the constellation of the Plough or Big Dipper. Look for a line of three bright stars, with four stars forming a box shape at the end – like a big spoon.

The constellation of Scorpius, the Scorpion, rises in the southeast. Three bright stars form the scorpion's claws. Below them is the reddish star Antares, the Scorpion's fiery eye. And below Antares, a line of stars forms the scorpion's body, like a giant fishhook in the sky. Two stars close together are the sting in the scorpion's tail.

The planet Saturn is near the Scorpion's tail. To the right of the Scorpion, in the south, are the two bright stars Alpha and Beta Centauri in the constellation of the Centaur. Next to them, the Southern Cross now leans to the west. (See June Nature Net)

July Sun

The Earth's orbit around the sun is not a perfect circle. In July the Earth is a little further from the sun, so it is the cold season near the equator.

JULY 2019 AT A GLIMPSE

Jul 3rd	Morning Bird Walk
Jul 1th	FoNA Tree Walk
Jul 10th	Morning Bird Walk
Jul 17th	Morning Bird Walk/Public Talk
Jul 20th	FoCP Nature Walk
Jul 21st	Sunday Bird Watch
Jul 24th	Morning Bird Walk
Jul 31st	Morning Bird Walk

Bird ringing every Tuesday morning (check with Ornithology section, National Museums).

Birders Please Note! The Wednesday Morning Birdwalks meet at 8:30 am at the Nairobi National Museum. Transport is on a self-help basis. The group meets in the courtyard of the Nairobi National Museum, past the entrance to the galleries. We normally return at about 12:30 pm.

The Sunday Birdwatch on the THIRD Sunday of each month now also meets at 8:30 am, at the same location. It is a day trip; please bring water and lunch.

Mombasa Birdwalks On the 3rd Saturday of each month. For meeting time and place, please contact Taibali Hamzali <thamzali@gmail.com> / 0733-980540; or Doris Schaule <dorischaule@gmail.com> / 0722-277752. Or check Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FFJmombasa/>

Contact the office for information on other birdwalks in Kakamega, Kisumu, and other sites

Ngong Forest walks - 1st and 3rd Saturday at 9.00 am. Contact Simon 0729-840715

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Friends of City Park Management Committee
volunteer members needed!
A call for members who have time & experience and who are good team players

Email: cityparkfriends@naturekenya.org

Yes! Start my **Nature**Kenya membership

Surname _____
First Name _____
Ms/Mr/Title _____
Address _____
Tel. _____
Mobile _____
Email _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPES
Ksh Per Year

Full	2,000
Sponsor	6,000
Family	2,800
Student	1,200
Schools, Clubs	1,500
Corporates	20,000 -30,000

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- Select **'Lipa na Mpesa'**
- Select **'Pay Bill'**
- Enter business number **100300**
- Enter account number **(put your lapsed membership number or write new member)**
- Enter the amount, enter your PIN
- Confirm details & press OK

For details on associated groups such as Youth Committee, Succulenta, and Friends of Nairobi Arboretum, City Park or Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, contact office@naturekenya.org